



Thursday, October 23, 2003

Paratroopers take on extremists in south Baghdad

Story and photo by Sgt. Brent M. Williams, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Abn.)

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division's Task Force Falcon, one of several brigade combat teams attached to the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division, are working to eliminate former regime loyalists and extremists hostile toward coalition forces.

The current mission before the light infantry paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment is to conduct offensive operations and defeat hostile forces in the Al Rashid District of Baghdad, said Col. Kurt Fuller, brigade commander.

"We have defeated the (former regime loyalists), and they are really no longer a major threat," Fuller said. "Now, a new enemy has emerged."

The brigade combat team, which crossed into Iraq to secure several key cities along Highways 8 and 9, last March, is now facing groups of religious extremists opposing coalition efforts and the Iraqi people, he said.

The brigade, charged since May to maintain a secure environment for coalition forces in south Baghdad, is responsible for an area that is home to approximately 1.5 million people.

The extremists do not support coalition efforts or the will of the Iraqi people, which is to rebuild a country ravaged by nearly 20 years of war, sanctions and poverty, Fuller said.

Extremists are calling their followers to form their own governments and militias, he said. These unofficial and unrecognized governments reflect one particular community and do not represent the Iraqi people.

Task Force Falcon is working to reduce the extremists' influence on the people of Iraq by working directly with local leaders, Fuller said.

Commanders have been working with Iraqi Police, Facility Protection Services and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps to search for weapons and weapons-making materials hidden inside Iraqi religious sites, said Capt. Tyson Voelkel, commander of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 325th AIR.

Iraqi Islamic beliefs forbid foreigners and non-believers from entering their sacred places of worship. Without the assistance of Iraqi forces, buildings, such as a mosque or temple, would be inaccessible to coalition forces.

Voelkel, who recently worked with Iraqi Police Service officers in Baghdad Oct. 6 to detain a local religious leader responsible for anti-coalition violence, believes the task force is seeing more hostile activity from religious extremists.

"The guys we're working against now, they're better trained," Voelkel said. He said some extremists may be coming in from neighboring countries. These foreign instigators are "trying to persuade younger Iraqis to turn against the coalition."

Task Force Falcon remains busy in the face of the enemy, said Capt. Sam Mokhiber, plans officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 325th AIR.



Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division's 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment maintain perimeter security as Iraqi Police forces search a mosque in Al Bayaa for illegal weapons and weapons making materials.

Increasing coalition patrols and search and seizure operations, the 82nd is working to engage the unconventional forces operating in south Baghdad.

"Just as the enemy has adapted to us, we have adapted to them," Mokhiber said. "We are making measured success in each operation."

Task Force leaders continue to identify the major needs of the Iraqi people and continue to work with local leaders providing stability and progress for the Iraqi people and the new Iraqi government, said Mokhiber.

Their efforts will take time, he explained.

The events surrounding the detainment of an Iraqi religious leader accused of crimes against coalition forces and the people of Iraq are proving to be what Fuller calls a "watershed event."

"... (The extremists) have been able to convince large numbers of followers that the issue is a religious one and not a legal one," Fuller said. "How this plays out will more than likely determine the future of the conflict and of Iraq."

Any movement by the brigade combat team against the anti-coalition extremists is carefully planned and handled with sensitivity to prevent a violent response from their followers and to show respect to the Iraqi people, said Fuller.

The threat these extremists pose is extremely difficult to counter, said Fuller, but the majority of the Iraqi people are making tremendous progress towards forming a representative government and setting the conditions for peace and prosperity.

The Old Ironsides Report October 23, 2003

NEWS

Rumsfeld Questions U.S. in Terror Fight

WASHINGTON (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld questioned whether the United States was doing enough to win the war on terrorism, citing "mixed results" in the fight against al-Qaida in a pointed memo to top Pentagon officials.

Rumsfeld said the U.S.-led coalitions would win in Afghanistan and Iraq, but not without "a long, hard slog." He wrote that the United States "has made reasonable progress in capturing or killing the top 55 Iraqis" but has made "somewhat slower progress" tracking down top Taliban leaders who sheltered al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

Bush Repudiates Comments by General

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush on Wednesday repudiated the views of a top general who cast the war on terrorism in religious terms, but the Pentagon brushed aside congressional calls to reassign the general during an investigation.

Bush, talking to reporters on Air Force One as he flew to Australia, said he had discussed the comments of Army Lt. Gen. William Boykin with Muslim leaders in Indonesia.

Sniper Suspect Ends Stint As Own Lawyer

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) - Sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad changed his mind Wednesday and stopped acting as his own lawyer at his trial after only one day of cross-examining witnesses.

Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. informed the jury of Muhammad's decision after a half-hour conference at the judge's bench. Jonathan Shapiro and Peter Greenspun, who had been advising him on standby since his decision Monday, returned to their former roles as his defense lawyers.

Convoy Safety

- ✓ Drivers will not eat, drink, or smoke while vehicle is in motion *AR 385-55 Para 2-6 (f)*
- ✓ Headphones or earphones are prohibited while driving *AR 385-55, Para 2-6 (d)*
- ✓ Kevlar Helmets Or combat vehicle crewman (CVC) worn while combat vehicles are operated *AR 385-55, Para 2-16*
- ✓ Weapons at the ready
- ✓ Double check RED status

Entertainment...

Elton John announces three-year deal with Caesars Palace in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Elton John has signed a three-year, multimillion-dollar deal to perform 75 shows at Caesars Palace beginning in February 2004.

The 56-year-old singer will perform with his band five times a week at the Palace's Colosseum for five weeks a year in a deal reported to be worth more than \$50 million.

Tickets for the first series of performances, scheduled for Feb. 13-22, go on sale Wednesday and are priced at \$250, \$175 and \$100.

"By bringing Elton John, one of the best-known and best-loved performers in the world, to an extended engagement at Caesars Palace, we've established The Colosseum as the nation's premier musical showcase for top tier talent," said Wallace R. Barr, president and chief executive officer of Park Place Entertainment, which owns Caesars.

The \$95 million, 4,100-seat Colosseum was built for singer Celine Dion and her extravaganza show *A New Day*. It has hosted performances by Mariah Carey, Tim McGraw and Gloria Estefan. Jerry Seinfeld is scheduled in December.

John will perform his show, *The Red Piano*, when Dion is on vacation from her three-year, \$100 million contract.

Photographer David LaChapelle will serve as production designer and director of the show, billed as a blend of the Grammy-winning artist's music and "vibrant visual imagery."

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: **Honesty**

The most precious gift we can give is honesty. Yet we often hide our true selves from others, fearing we won't be accepted or loved if we let them see the real us.

Often, we show parts of ourselves that hide who we really are. We have often heard ourselves or others say, "They just wouldn't understand."

If we hide too much behind false images, we run the risk of losing track of what is real and what is false. We become actors instead of real people, trying to please others.

When we conquer our fear of letting others in, we are able to see ourselves honestly. When we discover that others accept us as we are, we can accept and love ourselves.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
(Galatians 5:14).

To know oneself is to know a person of value.

TOP 10 PERKS OF BEING STATIONED IN BAGHDAD

1. THE FARTHER AWAY FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, THE BETTER
SPC Noel Ellis, 354th Civil Affairs Brigade

2. CBS COMEDIES ARE EVEN FUNNIER IN KURDISH
SPC Jonathon Moore, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division

3. FUN TO PICK UP THE PHONE IN THE PALACE AND SAY, "NO, UDAY AND QUSAY AREN'T AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE THEY'RE DEAD."
SPC Jason Williams, 3rd Brigade Combat Team

4. GOODBYE STANDARD ISSUE DESERT CAMOUFLAGE UNITED STATES ARMY TENT, HELLO VACANT BILLION DOLLAR PALACE
SFC Edwin Kolb, Division Artillery

5. WHEN THE C.O.'S NOT LOOKING, I LIKE TO TIPTOE INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND PLAY DICTATOR FOR A WHILE
SPC Nyria Roach, Division Support Command

6. YOU DON'T NEED DR. PHIL TO LOSE WEIGHT HERE -- YOU JUST SWEAT YOUR ASS OFF
PFC Daniel Ruiz, 1st Brigade Combat Team

7. WE GET TO TEST THE ARMY'S NEW BULLETPROOF CAMEL
SGT Kevin Kirk, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment



8. YOU PLAY CARDS WITH THOSE IRAQI GOVERNMENT DECKS, WE USE THE ACTUAL GUYS
SFC Timothy Bird, Division Support Command

9. I'M THE ONLY Jonathan Atwood IN THE BAGHDAD PHONE BOOK
SPC Jonathan Atwood, 2nd Brigade Combat Team

10. ACCESS TO SADDAM'S EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF BARBRA STREISAND CDS
SGT Lillian Rodriguez, 4th Brigade

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As of: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 12:42:58 PM									
GMT	Cet	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	GMT	Cet	
07:00	09:00	USA SOCCER - USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM: ITALY @ USA	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - WHY MEN KILL THEIR WIVES	RUGRATS : - THE FIRST CUT/ CHUCKIE GROWS	POKEMON: THE JOHTO JOURNEYS : - FOREST GRUMPS	NIGHTLINE	07:00	09:00	
07:30	09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - MERMAID MAN AND BARNACLE BOY 4/ DOING TIME	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE DARK HARD	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	07:30	09:30	
08:00	10:00		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	THE SIMPSON : - MONTY CAN'T BUY ME LOVE	JEOPARDY!	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	08:00	10:00	
08:25	10:25		GUIDING LIGHT				08:25	10:25	
08:30	10:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - DOLLARS AND SENSE	HEADLINE NEWS		08:30	10:30	
08:52	10:52				PACIFIC REPORT		08:52	10:52	
09:00	11:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT		TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - SONG FOR MY FATHER	ESPNEWS	60 MINUTES II	09:00	11:00	
09:13	11:13		GENERAL HOSPITAL				09:13	11:13	
09:30	11:30	NFL LIVE			HEADLINE NEWS		09:30	11:30	
09:52	11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		09:52	11:52	
10:00	12:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - TWO CATHEDRALS HOUR 2	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - THE HEART IS A LONELY APARTMENT HUNTER	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	10:00	12:00	
10:25	12:25				WILL & GRACE : - FAGMALION PART ONE: GAY IT FORWARD		10:25	12:25	
10:30	12:30		JUDGE JUDY				10:30	12:30	
10:50	12:50						10:50	12:50	
11:00	13:00	MLB - 2003 WORLD SERIES GM 4: NY YANKEES @ MARLINS	TODAY	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - SEATTLE, HOUR 2	REEL TIME THE BACHELOR	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	11:00	13:00	
12:00	14:00			FRONTIER HOUSE : - THE AMERICAN DREAM	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - GOT MURDER?		12:00	14:00	
13:00	15:00		DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - SPOTS AND SHOTS/ ON THE LAMB	MASTERPIECE THEATER : - HER MAJESTY MRS. BROWN	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	13:00	15:00	
13:22	15:22		HEY ARNOLD! : - ARNOLD SAVES SID/ HOOKEY		PACIFIC REPORT		13:22	15:22	
13:30	15:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO	CHANNEL ONE	13:30	15:30	
13:45	15:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING THE EARLY SHOW	13:45	15:45	
14:00	16:00		POKEMON: THE JOHTO JOURNEYS : - FOREST GRUMPS				14:00	16:00	
14:30	16:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE DARK HARD		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN		14:30	16:30	
15:00	17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - THE FIRST CUT/ CHUCKIE GROWS			15:00	17:00	
15:30	17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - MERMAID MAN AND BARNACLE BOY 4/ DOING TIME	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		15:30	17:30	
16:00	18:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSON : - MONTY CAN'T BUY ME LOVE	THE HAUNTING	FOX NEWS LIVE	16:00	18:00	
16:30	18:30	NFL LIVE	HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - DOLLARS AND SENSE			16:30	18:30	
17:00	19:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - VIRGINIA TECH @ WEST VIRGINIA	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - THE HEART IS A LONELY APARTMENT HUNTER	TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - SONG FOR MY FATHER		FOX NEWS	17:00	19:00	
17:25	19:25		WILL & GRACE : - FAGMALION PART ONE: GAY IT FORWARD				17:25	19:25	
17:50	19:50		REEL TIME				17:50	19:50	
18:00	20:00		THE BACHELOR	THE WEST WING : - TWO CATHEDRALS	STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN	FOX NEWS LIVE	18:00	20:00	
19:00	21:00	PGA TOUR - FUNAI CLASSIC @ THE WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT: FIRST ROUND	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - GOT MURDER?	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - SEATTLE, HOUR 2		STUDIO B WITH SHEPARD SMITH	19:00	21:00	
20:00	22:00		HEADLINE NEWS	FRONTIER HOUSE : - THE AMERICAN DREAM	HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	20:00	22:00	
20:30	22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	20:30	22:30	
21:00	23:00			MASTERPIECE THEATER : - HER MAJESTY MRS. BROWN	TODAY	60 MINUTES II	21:00	23:00	
21:30	23:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				21:30	23:30	
22:00	00:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	22:00	00:00	
22:30	00:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	22:30	00:30	
23:00	01:00		ESPNEWS	RUGRATS : - UNEASY RIDER/ WHERE'S GRANDPA	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	23:00	01:00	
23:30	01:30	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - ACC: MARYLAND @ GEORGIA TECH		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - THE SNOWBALL EFFECT/ ONE KRABS TRASH		CBS EVENING NEWS	23:30	01:30	
00:00	02:00		MLB - 2003 WORLD SERIES GM 5: NY YANKEES @ MARLINS	THE SIMPSON : - THEY SAVED LISA'S BRAIN	MLB - 2003 WORLD SERIES GM 5: NY YANKEES @ MARLINS	THE NEWSHOUR	00:00	02:00	
00:30	02:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - A FROZEN MOMENT			00:30	02:30	
01:00	03:00			CHARMED : - WITCHES IN TIGHTS		HANNITY & COLMES	01:00	03:00	
02:00	04:00			THE X-FILES : - PILOT		THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	02:00	04:00	
02:30	04:30	NBA - PRESEASON: CLIPPERS @ LAKERS					02:30	04:30	
03:00	05:00			THE JEFF CORWIN EXPERIENCE : - THE BIG BAD WOLF?		BET NIGHTLY NEWS	03:00	05:00	
03:30	05:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	03:30	05:30	
04:00	06:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMAZON SHOCKER: THE ELECTRIC EEL	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	04:00	06:00	
04:25	06:25				GUIDING LIGHT		04:25	06:25	
04:30	06:30		HEADLINE NEWS				04:30	06:30	
05:00	07:00	INSIDE THE NFL	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BUFFY VS DRACULA		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	05:00	07:00	
05:13	07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		05:13	07:13	
06:00	08:00	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - CHRISTMAS TREE	IRON CHEF : - MATSUTAKE/SAKA/VS MASAMITSU TAKAHASHI	CALILOU : - PETS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	06:00	08:00	
06:30	08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		WEEKENDERS : - SUPER KIDS		06:30	08:30	

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